276 first time, and when fathers make their sons warriors or when they
786 include them among those capable of going to war. They also hold drinking parties when they want to put a canoe to sea after it is newly built in the mountains. They call in all their neighbors who work for several hours and drink for the rest of the day. They also call in help to clear a new garden or when they make a new house. All their
[534] vins, oüicou, or debauches are accompanied by ribaldry. Some play the flute, others sing, and they make a kind of music which according to their tastes is sweet. The old women who never sing unless
[533] they are drunk, sing the bass notes with hoarse voices. The young people sing the higher notes with a piercing noise. There is a girl who holds a calabash full of small stones. She shakes it in accom-
276 paniment to the music of the others.
786
535 During the time that these living violins are humming, three or four of the most clever among them have themselves rubbed all over
[542] their body with a resinous, sticky water. They cover themselves with feathers and masquerade among the entire assembly taking a thousand postures and dancing in such a barbarous way that it is annoying rather than entertaining. One man holds his right arm extended over the shoulders of another. He in return, has his left arm around the neck of his companion. All the others follow them in pairs in the same way, dancing around the carbet. The whole assembly laughs in amusement at this buffoonery. It continues until the women bring
276 each of the dancers a calabash of oüicou, which is as much as two
786 quarts as measured in Paris. No matter how drunk they are it is necessary to empty the calabash even if it kills them. If someone can no longer drink he is seized by one of the strongest among the company who embraces him from behind. The strong Carib so forcibly squeezes the other man's belly by this embrace that he is emptied of his excess through both mouth and bottom. Thus he is compelled to finish the calabash. Afterwards he starts to dance again.

Strange as it may seem, the master of the carbet who has invited everyone does not participate in the debauchery. It seems that he should never mingle with the group. He stands upright in front of the door resting his club on his shoulder as if he were a sentry, to prevent any brawl that might break out.

[689] The Caribs do not believe that drunkeness is a crime, but consider it only a diversion. One sees the women drinking to excess just like